

J. Dolbeare

AUTHENTICK
MEMOIRS

Of the Wicked LIFE and *Dying Words* of the late

JOHN COLLINGTON, of
Throwleigh, in Kent;

Who was executed on *Saturday, April 7, 1750,*
at *Maidstone*, for maliciously hiring *John Stone* and *William Luckhurst*, to set Fire to the Barn and Ricks of
Mr. *John Clarke*; in which is a full and particular Account of his unheard-of Cruelties, Acts of Revenge, and Malice; particularly to his first Wife and Children, and Neighbours, where-ever he lived: Together with his Behaviour during his Confinement in Goal to the Time of his Execution, and his last Dying Words.

To which is added,

A full ACCOUNT of the Life and Dying Words of *John Stone*, for setting Fire to the Barn and Ricks of the said Mr. *John Clarke*; as also those of *John Williams* for House-breaking, and *Francis Foster* for robbing on the Highway, who were all three executed at the same Time with *Collington*.

The Third Edition, Corrected.

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. GRIFFITH, the Corner of *Elliot's Court*, in the *Little Old Bailey*. 1750. (Price Three-pence.)

Authentick MEMOIRS of the Wicked
LIFE of the late JOHN COLLINGTON, of
Throwleigh in Kent, &c. &c.

WE think proper first to mention some Part of this wicked Man's Life, before we come to those Transactions of it which was the Occasion of his being brought to condign Punishment; after which we shall give an Account of his Behaviour during his Confinement, at his Trial, and under Condemnation, and be very particular in every minute Circumstance that passed the Morning before his Execution in the Goal, and likewise in the Coach to and at the Place of Execution, till he was turned off.

We are sorry, that we must relate in these Memoirs such horrible Acts of Cruelty, Malice and Revenge, that must be shocking to human Nature to hear; tho' at the same Time we can assure the Publick that the Facts are authentick.

This *John Collington* was born of very creditable Parents in the Parish of *Pluckly* in the Eastern Division of the County of *Kent*. His Father was a Clergyman, and Rector of the said Parish, a Living of between 2 and 300 *l. per Annum*; and was also possessed of a considerable paternal Fortune.

As to the rest of his Children and Family, we shall forbear mentioning them, they being all Persons of the best of Characters, and whose Troubles must already

be full great, which has been brought on them by the villainous Life and ignominious Death of this unchristian-like Criminal.

He was born the 23d of *March*, 1697, and on the 23d of *March*, 1750, he received his fatal Sentence of Death, being just Fifty-three Years of Age that Day. His Father gave him a liberal Education, and, in short, it may be said, that he was a Man of great Capacity, tho' of a dangerous one, and had his Thoughts been turned to Mildness as it was to Passion, he might have been deemed a good Man, and have been of that Service for which Mankind come into the World; but as he turned out so very bad, it may be truly said of him, that he was a Terror to all that had any Concern with him; and which was making good his own Words which he frequently made use of, *That he would be a strong Friend to those to whom he professed Friendship, and an inveterate Enemy to all such that should disoblige him*; and indeed it evidently appeared so through the whole Course of his Life; for whenever he took the Part of any Person, whether Right or Wrong, he would even advance Money (tho' a very penurious Man) to serve their Purposes.

During his Minority, whilst a Boy at School,



School, he was then full of Revenge, and was very malicious, and even to any of his School-fellows that opposed him, he endeavoured to do Mischief, by which Means the Masters of two of the Schools he went to were obliged to turn him away, and send him home to his Parents, or else the Parents of the other Scholars would have taken their Sons away.

When he was at the Age of about fourteen Years, his Father put him Apprentice to a *Grocer* in *Newgate-street, London*, where he played his wicked Pranks so much, that his Master was obliged to part with him, and he was turned over to another Master of the same Business; he likewise was so very bad there, that he was turned away from thence, and never served out his Apprenticeship: He then went down to *Maidstone* in *Kent*, and lived with a *Grocer* opposite to the Fish-Cross; but his Behaviour being so very extraordinary also there, he did not continue above three Quarters of a Year.

Before we proceed any farther, we think it necessary to give a Detail of a Story or two, which *Collington* frequently told concerning himself in his Apprenticeship: The first is an Instance of his Pride; the Maid came into the Shop, and delivered to him a Pot, and asked him to go for a halfpenny worth of Mustard, and on taking the Pot he walked to *Cheapside*, and called a Coach to carry him back, and so soon as he had alighted, he went to the Till, took out a Shilling, and paid the Coachman: Being asked the meaning of such Conduct, his Answer was, *His Parents did not put him Apprentice to go of Errands, and he never would consent to go without a Coach.* Another Time he asked his Master to give him Leave to go in the Country to visit his Friends, who very kindly gave him a Fortnight's Time, and desired him not to be longer Absent; and on the Day he was to set out, his Master be-

ing abroad, he told his Mistress that he was going to see his Parents, when she desired him not to stay above a Fortnight or three Weeks at the most, which he promised her he would not; but when he got into the Country, he did not return till five Weeks were expired; and when he returned, his Master asked him how he could stay so long: He replied, *that he had staid no longer than his Time, for that he had given him two Weeks, and his Mistress had given him three more*; which was partly the Means of that Master's parting from him.

He being come to Man's Estate, his Father thought proper to settle him in the World, and accordingly took an old accustomed *Grocer's* and *Chandler's* Shop at *Rye* in *Sussex*, that had been kept by one *Mr. Thompson*, where he lived a considerable Time; but his Behaviour was very bad, and giving Way to Revenge and Passion, he soon lost his Business, the People of the Town despising him so much, that he had not Trade sufficient to maintain him; upon which he removed to a little Country Town in the Eastern Division of *Kent*, called *Charing*, where he continued to keep a Shop for some Time, and where he likewise behaved so very bad, that all his Neighbours despised and forsook him.

He married to his first Wife the only Child of Counsellor *Wheeler*, who brought him so considerable a Fortune, that a Jointure was settled upon her of 100 *l.* and upwards *per Annum*, who bore him Ten Children, besides Miscarriages, 4 of whom were at two Births, having at two Labours Twins, four of which Children are now surviving.

His Cruelties and unchristian Behaviour to his Wife and Children were unsufferable; he omitted to let them be baptized, only giving them a Name himself; and the Six that died, were buried in his own Orchard

to save Charges. His unhappy Wife, who came of a very good Family, and who was a well-bred, courteous, affable good Woman, and as fine a Woman as any in the County, he used to treat with Acts of the greatest Barbarity, and often beat her till the Marks have appeared; then usually made it a Practice to lock her up Stairs, and sometimes put her down in a Saw-pit he had in his Orchard, which he covered over, and kept her there many Days together without any Sustenance, his Temper being so very morose that he would not admit of any Controul, though ever so equitable, and the main quarrelling between them, was, her interposing that he might not be so cruel to their Children.

We shall now give an Instance of such unheard-of Cruelty, in support of his Malice, as is shocking to human Nature.

Mrs. *Collington*, his first Wife, being with Child, she desired him to get her a Partridge, he being a great Sportsman himself, went out and shot some, one of which was order'd to be pulled and dressed for her. In the Interim of Time he having a Quarrel with one of his Children, and beating him unmercifully, the Mother interfered, and only begged of him to desist from beating the Child so unmercifully: At which he flew into so very great Passions with her, that even two Hours afterwards, when the Partridge was ready, he put Parsly and Butter over it, she being present at Table, then cut it into four Quarters, and gave it to the Cats and Dogs, and would not suffer her to touch it, though she was so far gone as to expect to lay down in a short Time; to which the Gentlewoman ascribed one of her Miscarriages which happened two Days after, and had like at that Time to have proved her Death.

Though the Gentlewoman this Time escaped Death, by his brutish Behaviour, it was not many Months e're he took an

Opportunity of quarrelling with her, and meeting her on the Stairs, flung her Head foremost down, followed her, and stamped on her, and kicked her on the Breast, that it turned to a Cancer, which soon after occasioned her Death.

We cannot help being of the same Opinion as most other People were that knew him and his unfortunate Wife, that it must be deemed Murder in him. And indeed he would have been prosecuted if it had not been for the Wickedness of some avaritious People, who knew of this cruel Transaction, and whose Evidence was bought off with a Bribe by him.

Upon the Death of his Father, about fourteen Years since, who was Rector of *Pluckley*, as I have mentioned before, he came to the Possession of a very considerable Fortune; and some time after he went to *Throwleigh*, where a great Part of his Estate lay, and there lived as a Gentleman Farmer; and about nine Years ago married his second Wife, who now survives him, who is the Daughter of one Mr. *Franklin*, a Tradesman of an exceeding good Character, at *Wye* in *Kent*, with whom he had a considerable Fortune, and who has had six Children by him, besides one Miscarriage, two of which were born at one Birth, and are both dead, the other four being now living, so that he had eight Children alive at the Time of his Execution, four by his first Wife, and four by the last.

Some few Years before he married the last Wife, he was concerned in Running or Owling of Wool; for which he was convicted in a very large Penalty; and in order to evade the Payment thereof, he made over his Estate to a Person in *Maidstone*, whose Name we chuse to omit, for particular Reasons; and then made Affidavit, to move Compassion, that he was not worth Five Pounds; and having obtained Remission of the Penalty, he in about

about a Month after, went into the Fields to take Game; and he having been so very litigious when he was qualified, the neighbouring Gentlemen commenced Prosecutions against him, when, to their great Astonishment and Surprise, he swore to his Qualification, and laughed at them, tho' at the same Time his Estate was made over, and not in his own Possession; which plainly shews that he stuck at Nothing, even Perjury itself, to support his usurping Temper.

As soon as he got a Remission of the Penalty upon the Account of Running of Wool, and being easy on Account of the Game Act, he came to Maidstone to get Possession again of the Writings and Deeds of his Estate; and a great deal of Disturbance there was upon it, by the Person not readily parting from them; but some Time afterwards, as it is strongly presumed, the Biter being Bit, the Person returned him his Writings, upon a Consideration of his having a Sum of Money; and Collington was so overjoyed at his having got them into his Custody, that he stood upon his Head, and played on a Fiddle.

Collington became so arbitrary in his Way, that he was a Terror to his Neighbours in six Parishes about him, constantly poaching in other Mannors, though when any qualified or not qualified Person came on his Estate to seek for Game, he would threaten to shoot them, and did shoot at People several Times; and he being grown so very terrible, the Countess Dowager of Rockingham built a House on her own Waste for a Person to live in, and to hinder Collington from committing such Depredations on her Game, and curb him in his audacious and dangerous Proceedings.

This House or Cottage very much annoyed Mr. Collington, who was extream angry at any Thing that should restrain his unbounded Ambition, and unneighbourly Acts; and accordingly he knew no better Way than to destroy the said House, to which Purpose he

consulted one Hawkins to set Fire to the same, and offer'd him several Rewards; but the Man had more Honesty than to comply.

He then thought of his Man Luckhurst, (the same who was an Evidence against him at his Trial for the Fact for which he suffered) who declared to several Gentlemen, that last Spring Collington came to him as he was at work for him in his Woods, and after behaving very friendly and familiarly, asked him to go with him to Feversham, to which he complied; and as they went along the Highway, Collington told him, that he would give any Body half a Guinea to set Fire to a House lately built on some waste Ground belonging to the Countess Dowager of Rockingham, which Luckhurst came into, and took the half Guinea to perpetrate the Design; but soon after repenting of such a wicked Undertaking, so injurious to such a worthy Lady, he returned the Money back again.

Upon which Collington carried it with a high Hand, and cursed him, and threaten'd to shoot him directly if he did not keep the half Guinea, and do as he had agreed, which frighten'd the Fellow into a Compliance: so they went to the Ship at Feversham, where Collington, after having made him drink plentifully, provided Matches and other Materials for him to Fire the House with; on which Luckhurst set out that Night, and about Eleven o'Clock he did set Fire to the House, and the same was entirely burnt down to the Ground.

Having premised the foregoing, we shall proceed to the Passages that were the original Spring that brought about his fatal End.

Mr. Collington, as is before observed, having a very great Inveteracy against his Children, we mean those by his first Wife, he used them very cruelly, even his eldest Son, who is about 16 Years of Age, and Heir to the Paternal Estate, which was the

the Jointure settled on his first Wife, amounting to above One hundred Pounds *per Annum*, he gave no Education, but used him cruelly, always beating him, and turned him out of Doors, very young, to seek his Bread, for which the Boy work'd with the Farmers, and is now no more than a Waggoner's Mate, and lives at a Farm of Lord Tenham's at *Linslead*; and his Children used to go about the Neighbourhood like young Gipsies, very ragged, and begging, he never putting them to School.

The Son who was the Occasion of his Misfortune, about two Years younger than the Eldest, he cruelly beat, when he was about twelve Years old, and put him into a Saw-pit, which he cover'd over, in order to starve him to Death; but the Child being reliev'd by some of the Servants, he then turn'd him out of Doors; and the Boy being begging about the Parish, the cruel Father, though applied to, said he was old enough to work for his Bread, and refus'd to take him in, upon which the Parish had an Order to provide for him; and Mr. Clarke, the Prosecutor, who was Church-warden, accordingly took him into his House, and maintain'd him; and upon applying to Collington for Payment, and he refusing to pay the Parish, they applied to a Bench of Justices, who granted a Warrant of Distress, to levy upon his Goods; and that on his going with Mr. Hernden the Overseer of the Poor, and a Constable, Mr. Collington then threaten'd to be reveng'd on Mr. Clarke, being on the 13th of September last; and accordingly, in Pursuance of his Threatening, on the 17th of November following, he sent Michael Paine and Christopher Barrett, two Russians, and Fellows of very bad Characters, and remarkably Blood-thirsty, and Joseph Gregory, a Dragoon, to Mr. Clarke's House, in order to bring him away from his House; and disguised the said three Villains, putting their Cloaths in a Bag, and armed them with Fire Arms, and Powder and Ball.—For the Particulars of this Affair, we must refer our Readers to the Trials at large, of Collington and Stone, as also of the said Barrett and Gregory; which may be had of the Persons who sell this Pamphlet, at the Price of *Three-pence*; in which is contain'd the whole secret Transactions of this iniquitous Affair.

Mr. Clarke being made sensible, that these Russians came from Collington, to his House, in order to destroy him, they having, at the same time, said so, and two of them having fir'd at him, the one with a Pistol, the other with a Carbine; and the Balls passing very near him, he applied himself to Thomas Knight, Esq; a neighbouring Justice of the Peace, for his Warrant, to bring Mr. Collington before him, that he might be bound over, in order to keep the Peace, he apprehending he was in Danger of his Life from the said Collington; that accordingly Collington was apprehended the 19th of the same Month, being two Days afterwards, and brought before the said Justice,

where he was required to find Sureties, to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, to answer the Complaint of Mr. Clarke; which he refusing to do, and using the Justice in a scurrilous, passionate, and malicious Manner, he was that Day committed to *Canterbury Goal* for want of Sureties; and that on the 22d Day of the same Month of *November*, Mr. Clarke's Barn and Ricks were burnt down, and that done by the malicious and wicked Contrivance and Advice of the said Collington, by William Luckhurst, and the other Prisoner John Stone; an Account of all which is inserted in the Trials of him, and his wicked Companions aforementioned.

During his Confinement in *Canterbury Goal*, his Behaviour was the same as when at Liberty; declaring nothing but Revenge, and threatened that when he got his Liberty, which he expected as soon as the Assizes were over, to be revenged of every one who was any way concerned against him; either in advising or countenancing Mr. Clarke in carrying on the Prosecution.

On Monday the 19th of March, being the Commission Day of Assizes, he was brought from *Canterbury* in a Coach, to *Maidstone Goal*, and on Wednesday the 21st of the same Month, he and his Companion John Stone were called to the Bar of Justice, where, after a Trial of Five Hours, they both were found Guilty: At which Trial Collington behaved so contemptuously and impudent, that the Judge and all People present were astonished; but his Behaviour on the Friday following, when he received Sentence of Death, was of a different Nature, and he read a Paper, wherein he begged Pardon of the Court for his ill Behaviour at his Trial, and begged for Mercy, which if not granted, that he might be allowed a longer Time than usual to prepare himself for Death, and likewise to settle his worldly Concerns, which would take up some Time, as he had a Wife and Eight Children.

One Thing which we had forgot to mention was, as soon as Collington was brought back to the Goal after he was convicted, some of the Debtors, who were Prisoners in the Goal, began to express their Sorrow at his unhappy Case; when he snap'd his Fingers, and said *d—n them, I don't value any of them yet; I am sure I have Interest enough to get a Reprieve*, and bid his Companion Stone, make himself easy, for he was sure he could get him a Reprieve likewise.

Soon after this his Wife came into the Goal, in great Anguish of Mind, and went up to him, so full of Grief, that she could hardly utter Words to express her great Sorrow and Surprise at hearing of his unhappy Case and Conviction; when he, without any Signs of Contrition, bid her keep up her Spirits, for he did not fear of getting a Reprieve; and at most it could be only Transportation, and he did not doubt, before

before he went out of *England*, he should have an Opportunity of being revenged of all who had been concerned against him.

After he had received Sentence of Death and returned to the Goal, his Behaviour was much the same as it was before, shewing little or no Concern, and frequently saying, that he did not doubt but he should get a Reprieve, relying on the Interest he could get made by dint of Money. The next Day after Sentence of Death, as he was sitting in Company with the Keeper of the Goal and some other Persons, one of the other Persons was saying, that the Judge and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury seemed angry with Mr. *Pilcher*, the Keeper of *Canterbury* Goal, for his Behaviour at the Trial of *Collington*, for prevaricating so much in his Evidence; and another Person said, that he heard *Thomas Knight, Esq;* say, he should be glad if he could hear of an honest Person that could be well recommended, to be Keeper of *Canterbury* Goal. *Collington* replied, in a jocular Manner; *I must get you, Sir, to recommend me to Mr. Knight, that I may be Keeper of Canterbury Goal; and by that Means he will be able to make me amends for bringing all these Troubles on me.* The same Morning, in the same Company, one *John Ware* was going to give a Note of Hand, payable to one of the Persons present, but he could not write; upon which *Collington* said, *let me have Pen, Ink and Paper, and I will write the Note for you;* and accordingly he did, which *Ware* put his Mark to. Upon which *Collington*, smiling, said he would witness it.

In this Manner, being jocular, he pass'd great Part of his Time, under Condemnation, often declaring his Innocence, and that his Comrade *Stone*, was the same. Being frequently asked how he could, as a Man that must soon launch into Eternity, say that *Stone* was innocent, when he himself was confined in a Goal, 12 Miles distant from the Spot where the Fire was, and *Stone* being at Large, and not in his Company; to which he always made very evasive Answers. He often cast vehement Reflections on the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, and other Gentlemen of the County; and particularly on *Justice Knight*, and produced a Bond, for a considerable Sum of Money and Interest of *Justice Knight's* Father's, and would have wickedly endeavoured to persuade People, that this Prosecution was carried on to prevent the Payment of that Bond.

He spent his Time chiefly in Exclamations against his Prosecutors, writing Letters and Petitions, and carressing and listening to any Persons that came to him and gave him any Hope or Expectation of procuring him a Pardon; and frequently used to say, according to his inbred Malice, that if he could but live long enough to be revenged of his Prosecutors and Enemies, he should then willingly resign his Life.

When the Keeper receiv'd the Dead Warrant, or Order for Execution, and inform'd him, that the Day for his Execution was fixed for the Saturday fol-

lowing, being the 7th of April, he seem'd, at first concern'd, but, in a short time, recover'd his Spirits, and ask'd if his Fellow Prisoner *Stone*, was to suffer with him; and being answer'd, that he was, he said he was more concern'd for *Stone* than for himself: But in less than an Hour's Time he began to talk in the same Manner as he had done before, as that he did not yet doubt of a Reprieve coming for himself and *Stone*.

On Friday Morning, the Day before his Execution, a Message was brought to him in Goal, that *William Luckhurst*, who was the Evidence against him and *Stone*, at their Trial, was committed to *Canterbury* Goal, for breaking open an House, which he had done since he was discharg'd from *Maidstone* Goal, which was not above eleven or twelve Days before; and upon two Clergymen coming to pray with him, he prevail'd with them, and another Person of Reputation, to sign a Letter, which was sent up express to the Reverend Doctor *Walvin*, one of the Prebends of *Windsor*, for an Application to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, for a Respite for a few Days, as the Evidence was in Goal, and had been so wicked a Fellow as to break open a House so soon after his Release from Goal, they imagined, that the Evidence of such a wicked Fellow should not have so much Credit as to take away the Lives of two Men; and accordingly their Letter was sent Express by a Man to *London*, who set out about One o'Clock; the Particulars of which, and an Account of the Answer thereto, the Reader will find in the Appendix hereunto annexed.

After the Messenger was gone, he behav'd himself that Afternoon very unbecoming a Man who was in such melancholy Circumstances; frequently mentioning, that he expected a Reprieve, with a seeming Joy, hoping to have an Opportunity of Revenge.

About Six o'Clock that Evening, his Wife's Father came to see him, and then he was admitted into the Keeper's Room to converse with his Wife, her Father and Sister; and they observing his Behaviour was not becoming a Man in his Circumstances, they admonished him not to think of a Reprieve, but to take Care of his poor immortal Soul, and prepare for a future State; on which he seem'd a little more concerned. They then talked with him concerning which Way he would go to the Place of Execution; he replied, in a Coach, in order to prevent being made a publick Shew to the Populace as he went along. Then they asked him, if he would willingly be buried at *Throwleigh*, where he had lived; at which he seemingly swelled with Passion and Malice, and said that he should not care to be buried there; for as they had prosecuted him to Death, they would not let his Body lie there at Rest: He afterwards desired to be buried in the Church-yard at *Pluckly*, where he was born, and where his Father had been Rector of the Parish.

He then settled his Burial as follows: That he might have a good plain Elm Coffin; that he might be buried in Linen, and that as soon as the Execution was over, he might be put into his Coffin, and carried away directly, in a Hearse, and buried that Evening between Seven and Eight o'Clock. He was very hungry, and had some cold Beef-Stake Pye brought up to him, of which he eat very heartily, and then said to his Wife, her Father and Sister, let us, before we part, have something to drink; and made use of the following Words to them, *Let us eat and drink, for To-morrow we die*, and drank two Glasses of Wine cheerfully; soon after he took his Leave, and was locked up for the last Time, and his Wife that Night made the Sheet for him to be buried in.

We shall now leave Collington here, and proceed to give an Account of John Stone, and the other two Criminals that suffer'd with him; after which, by Way of Appendix, we shall insert every Passage that passed the Morning of their Execution, from the Time of their being unlocked to their Deaths. But, before we proceed on the others, shall mention one Circumstance of Collington which we had forgot; that is, on the Friday in the Afternoon, his eldest Son, who is a Waggoner's Mate only, and to whom great Part of his Fortune devolves, as we have before-mentioned, came to the Goal, and he being prevailed on to see him, Collington did more at this Time than was ever observed of him before; for he very seriously, though seemingly not very affectionately, gave the Lad good Advice, and desired him to keep himself from Passions, and not give Way to them, and to live in Peace and Love with his Neighbours; and then he parted with him very cool and indifferent, and said he hoped that God would bless him.

2. *John Stone*, was executed for wickedly and maliciously setting Fire to the Barns and Ricks of Mr. John Clarke of *Throwleigh*.

He said, he was 38 Years of Age, born in the Parish of St. Margaret's, in the Isle of *Thanet*, where he was bred to the Trade of Collar Making, and married in that Town; and has left a Wife and three Children, to bemoan his unhappy Exit.

Some Years since, he remov'd from the Isle of *Thanet*, to a Town call'd *Headcorn*, in *Kent*, where he follow'd the Collar Maker's Business, and liv'd very reputably, and took Care of his Family, but, unluckily for him, just before Michaelmas last, he heard that the Red Lion at *Challock-Lees*, was to lett, on which he went to Mr. Collington, who was Landlord thereof, and took it, and remov'd into it last Michaelmas, which he frequently lamented, as the taking that House was the Cause of his coming to this untimely End.

During the Time of his being under Conviction, he was kept with the other condemn'd Prisoners, (Collington being in a Room by himself) and behaved himself tolerably well, always seeming sorrow-

ful, and declaring his Innocence of the Fact for which he was to die. He always attended the Prayers when any of the Ministers came to pray with the condemn'd Criminals; but depended mightily on a Reprieve, Collington, on one hand, having led him up with such Notions, and, on the other, his having a Sister living in the Prince of *Wales's* Family; but the Thursday Night before his Execution, he began to be more thoughtful, a Letter coming from his Sister, informing him, that notwithstanding the Application that had been made, no Respite could be obtain'd either for him or Collington.

He frequently relented the unhappy Case of his Wife and Children, and said, that his greatest Grief was in leaving them in this World so unprovided for. As to his particular Behaviour, and dying Words, the Reader will find in the Appendix hereunto annexed.

3. *Francis Foster*, was indicted for robbing of Peter Greenhill, on the Highway, between *Chatbam* and *Raynham*, of a Silver Watch and Chain, and some Money.

This unhappy Criminal was aged 34 Years, was born of poor, but honest Parents in *Portugal*, and was bred to the Sea; and having been frequently in *English* Ports, and for many Years last past in the *English* Royal Navy, he had learned the *English* Tongue tolerable well.

He said he was Four Years on board the Ship *York*, an armed Vessel taken into the Governments Service, which was two Years on the *Welsh* Coast, in the last War; where he said he behaved himself well, and had the Love of the Officers and the Ships Crew; and indeed several Persons who had been at Sea with him, acknowledged that he was a very civil and peaceable Man, and always behaved himself well.

He confess'd the Robbery for which he was to suffer, and said he had committed about eight Robberies in the whole; and likewise owned that he enticed and persuaded Benjamin Baker, the other Criminal that was tried and condemned with him, and reprieved, to rob with him. When he was press'd to confess his Crimes, he refused to do it, saying, that he had confess'd them all to God, from whom he hoped for Mercy, and died a Roman Catholic.

4. *John Williams* was condemned for breaking and entering the Dwelling House of Richard May, in the Parish of St. *Cosmus* and *Damian* in the *Bleane*, in the Night-time, and stealing from thence one Silver Watch, the Property of Stephen Gammon.

This unhappy Criminal said he was born at *Chilham*, within six Miles of *Canterbury*, of very mean, though honest Parents, who could not give him any Education, and that he believed he was about 32 Years of Age; he said he had been at Sea, but his chief Business was working for Farmers, and other labouring Work. He confessed the Robbery for which he died, and

and acknowledged that he had committed several others; but refused to make any particular Confession saying, it could not be of any Service to him, and

might be a Prejudice to some others that he should leave behind him.



A P P E N D I X.

IN the Morning of their Execution, Stone, Williams, and Foster, about Nine o'Clock, were taken seperately out of the Room where they were confined, and had the Rivets of their Basils knocked out, which keep their Fetters on, and Horse Locks put on round their Legs in Lieu thereof; after which they put on each of them Iron Hand-Cuffs, which is the usual Way of that Place, to hang their Criminals with Hand-Cuffs and Irons on.

As soon as these three were all locked in their Room again, to wait till the Minister came to pray with them, Mr. Collington sent a Message out of his Room to the Keeper, to desire that the Goal might be cleared of Strangers, while he came out to have his Irons unriveted, as the others were; desiring to be made a publick Shew of as little as possible. Upon which Orders were given to take the Rivets out of his Irons, and put him on Horse Locks, in his own Room; then Mr. Collington being very hungry, as he said, desired he might have some Bread and Cheefe, and accordingly some was cut on a Plate and carried to him; but he was not permitted to have a Knife, it being feared that he wanted to cut his Throat.

After he had eat the Bread and Cheefe, which he did very heartily, the Keepers Man went to put on his Hand-Cuffs, when he seemed very much startled at seeing them, and begged that they might not be put on; however the Under Sheriff would not grant his Request, as they were a necessary Security to prevent an Escape, in conveying him to the Place of Execution.

He was then brought out of his own Room in the Goal, into the Keeper's House; where his Wife, and Sister sat along with him, and he talked to them of promiscuous Things, nothing in the least necessary to the Saving of his Soul; but many Times uttering revengeful Speeches against his Prosecutors and Adversaries; and particularly was very vehement against that Son who was the Occasion of his Inveteracy against Mr. Clarke, and who still continues with Mr. Clarke, and is taken Care of by the Parish, he having made no Provision for him.

Mention being made, by a Person in the Room, of his beating the Child, and of his having so unmercifully treated him; his Wife replied, he sitting near her, it was true, that Mr. Collington had beat his Children very much; but that they were very bad, and very naughty Children, and that they were always in

Mischief and Pilfering; but she could say, that since she was married to Mr. Collington, she never felt the Weight of his Hand in Anger; and she added, (which astonish'd all the People that were present) that Mr. Collington did once, when the Boy had committed a Fault, strip the Boy and himself into their Waistcoats, and then beat him so long and unmercifully, that she interposed, and received several of his Blows; and shortly afterwards she ask'd the Boy how he did, and if he was not hurt? when the Boy shrug'd up his Shoulders, and answer'd, that he was not hurt a great deal.

But we cannot help observing to our Readers, that these Children that Mr. Collington used so barbarous, were Children by his first Wife, whom, it is too true, we are afraid he murdered, as is mentioned before; and though many Reports have been spread, that a Mother-in-law might, in some Cases, influence him to act so cruelly, yet Charity obliges us to hope the contrary.

He several times that Morning, as did his Wife and Sister, exclaim much against Mr. Clarke, and pretended, that if Mr. Clarke had sent his Son home, he should have sent him to Sea, for that he had got a Master for him, and then there would have been none of this; but we can assure the Publick, that the Reason why the Parish would not let the Boy go to his Father, was, for fear the Child should be transported or murdered by him; and the Child always begged very hard not to go home.

He was frequently pressed concerning the Fact for which he died, when his Replies were, that he could say no more than what he had already said; for that he was innocent, and that Stone was innocent also; but he acknowledg'd his sending of the three Ruffians, Paine, Barrett, and Gregory, to Mr. Clarke's House, in order to bring him away with them by Force, and that he furnish'd them with Fire Arms; but would give no Answer, when he was ask'd what he intended to do with Mr. Clarke, when he had got him into his Custody.

About a Quarter before Eleven o'Clock a Rev. Divine, who before had attended them, came into the Goal, in order to pray with them; when Stone, the other two Prisoners, and Collington, went into a Room with the Clergyman to Prayers; which being over about a Quarter after Eleven o'Clock, they began then to prepare to go to the Place of Execution; and

and Collington was allowed a few Moments private Conversation with his Wife, her Father and Sister; during which Time the other three Criminals were brought out of the Goal, put into a Waggon and chained, which drew them to the Place of Execution.

When Stone came between the two Gates of the Gaol, he was particularly exhorted to speak the Truth, as he was going soon to appear before his Creator, who knew all Secrets; and the fatal Consequence was laid before him, of dying with a Lie in his Mouth: And then he was ask'd whether he was innocent of the Fact for which he was going to suffer; when he replied that he was innocent, and that he never saw Mr. Clarke's Barn that was burnt down in his Life. Being then asked if he did not know that Mr. Collington, who was to suffer with him, had procured or hired Luckhurst, the Evidence, to set Mr. Clarke's Barns and Ricks on fire; and whether he, tho' not guilty of the Fact as sworn by Luckhurst on his Trial, did not know that the said Barn and Ricks were to be set on fire that Night; and if he did not know the Person that did set fire to the Barn and Ricks, and with what they did set them on Fire. On these Questions he seemed very much surprized, and shed Tears; but refused to give any Answer, adding, that he should say to the last he was Innocent.

Being asked how he came to put up such a wicked and weak Defence on his Trial, in endeavouring to prove that he was at *Chilham* on Tuesday the 21st of November, the Day before the Barns, &c. were set on Fire, at which Time he was sworn, by Luckhurst, to be in *Canterbury* Goal with Mr. Collington. In a great deal of Agony of Mind, he said it was not his own doing, but Mr. Collington's; who had told him, that he did not doubt but it would succeed, and they must be both acquitted, as the Strefs of the Proof laid upon Luckhurst. This plainly shews the Art and abominable Contrivances of Collington, who was not only rooted in other Iniquities, but, in this, was guilty of that atrocious Crime of Subornation of Perjury, by bribing People to d—n their own Souls, in order to impose upon a Court of Justice, to screen himself from a Punishment which he so justly deserved; for both himself and Stone had confessed, openly and publickly, since their Condemnation, that Stone dined with him the 21st of November in *Canterbury* Goal, which was the Day before Mr. Clarke's Barn, &c. was set on Fire.

A great Multitude of People being assembled about the Goal, and it being Half an Hour after Eleven, (the latest Time usual for the Malefactors to go out of the Goal being Eleven o'Clock) the Populace began to grow uneasy, and more particularly at its being whisper'd, that Collington had a Reprieve, whereupon they cried out, *Bring him out, and hang him, that he may set no more Houses on Fire*: And he being soon after brought out, and put into

a Mourning Coach, in order to be convey'd to the Gallows, the Populace desisted from making any more Clamours.

He was attended in the Coach, by a Reverend Divine, his Wife's Father and Sister, and another Person; the Sashes of which were drawn up at his own particular Desire, in order to keep him from the Sight of the Populace: Soon after the Coach moved from the Goal, the Minister began to read such Prayers to him, as was suitable to the Occasion, but Collington gave little or no Heed to them; and though the Minister, his Father-in-law, and the other Person in the Coach, during the Time of the Prayers, were uncovered, yet he sat with his Hat on. After these Prayers were ended, the Minister made use of the best Arguments he could, to bring him to a due Sense of his unhappy Condition, yet he could not prevail upon him to say that he forgave his Enemies, or that he died in Charity with the World; and when the Coach came within a Quarter of a Mile of the Tree, Collington said, in a seeming Hurry and Confusion, *What a sad Thing it was, that the Messenger was not come back!* meaning the Man who was sent to *London*, with Letters to Doctor Walvin, as is before mentioned: Upon which the Minister exhorted him very much, to make use of the few precious Moments he had left to take Care of his poor Soul, telling him, that he did not only now, but had, during the Course of attending him since his Condemnation, observed, that his Mind had run more on the Care of his Body than his Soul, by leading himself up with the vain Hopes of a Reprieve; and having ask'd him, if he would receive the Sacrament, he replied, No; excusing himself, by saying, that he was not properly prepared for it.

The Waggon being drawn under the Gallows, and the Coach very near, Mr. Collington desired the Minister would do his last Office for him in the Coach, that he might not be put up into the Waggon till the last Moment, in order to prevent being made a public Spectacle, which was readily complied with; and the Minister went out of the Coach, and having prayed with the other three Criminals in the Waggon, about Ten Minutes, returned again into the Coach, and prayed some considerable Time with Mr. Collington; at which Prayers Mr. Collington indeed pulled off his Hat, but did not join so fervently as the other Persons who were in the Coach.

Prayers being over, he was again press'd by the Minister to die in Charity with all Mankind, and to forgive his Enemies, as being a necessary Point to obtain Salvation; but he refused to make any Reply to such Advice, and seemed full of Revenge by biting his Lips.

The Messenger that was sent to *London*, being come back, and riding up to the Gallows, brought a Letter from Dr. Walvin directed to the Clergyman in the Coach; and some of the Multitude seeing a Letter in his Hand, and thinking it was a Reprieve, cry'd out

a Reprieve; at which Collington seemed much joyed, and said; *is the Reprieve come at last.* But the Messenger coming to the Coach Door, to deliver the Letter to the Minister, informed Mr. Collington that there was no Reprieve for him, at which he seemed surprized, and said, *God help me then.* Then the Minister opened the Letter and read it to Mr. Collington, the Contents of which was, that he had waited on the Duke of Newcastle, but he was at *Claremont*; that he then waited on Mr. Stone, Under Secretary to his Grace, and also on his Grace the Duke of Bedford, when he was informed that no Respite could, on any Account, be obtained for Mr. Collington, there having been Interest made against him by the Noblemen and Gentlemen in the Country round where he lived.

This startled Mr. Collington very much, who with a seeming Malice and Revenge in his Countenance, said, *I know I was condemned and hanged before I came on my Trial.* He then pulled off his Hat, Wig and Neckcloth, which he gave to his Father-in-Law, and with the Assistance of his Sister, put on a white Linen Cap, and the Sheriff's Officers being come to conduct him from the Coach into the Waggon, he took his Leave of all in the Coach, and went out; but as he was getting out of the Coach, he was again pressed to die in Charity with all Mankind, and to forgive his Enemies; which he, unchristian-like, disregarded.

Being got into the Waggon, he then shed Tears, and had about two Minutes private Conversation with Stone, and then they were all tied up; and just as they were turning off, Stone declared himself innocent, but said he died in Peace and Charity with all Mankind; and Collington said that he was innocent, and his last Words were, that Stone was likewise innocent. The other two unhappy Criminals behaved themselves with a becoming Decency, for People in their unhappy Condition.

After they had hung a full Hour, Collington was first cut down, and his Body being stripp'd, was put into the Sheet which his Wife had made for him, and

then into a Coffin, and carried away immediately in a Hearse with four Horses to *Pluckly*, where it was buried the same Night, according to his Desire. The Body of Stone was next cut down, and after being stripp'd, was put into a Coffin, and buried in *Maidstone* Church-yard that Night. The Bodies of the other two unfortunate Men were cut down, and put into a Hole, dug for that Purpose by the Side of the Gallows, and there buried.

Having now done with these Criminals, we see no other Way of accounting for Collington's Behaviour at his last Gasp, than that the whole Tenor of his Life had the Cast of Infidelity in the Christian Faith, and in every moral and social Duty; more particularly as he died with innate Malice and Revenge to Mankind, especially those whom he thought had injured him, or restrained his over-bearing and arbitrary Principles. And, in the last Place, as there is too great Reason to apprehend other Persons may have been concerned in contriving the horrid Fact for which he suffered; as well as in several others, too well known in his Neighbourhood, he always modelled his Discourse to Stone, to prevent his Confession, as is certain, with the Art and Cunning of persuading him that his Endeavours for a Reprieve was more for the Sake of Stone than himself; and which, we are afraid Stone listened to so much, as to neglect that Duty which was incumbent on him, to make Preparation for another World.

N. B. We find the Report of William Luckhurst, the Evidence, breaking open a House, since his Release, to be true; which was of a Neighbour where he lived, on Monday the 2d Day of April, in *South Street*, near the Bottom of *Boughton-Hill*, and that some of the Goods, particularly a Pair of Shoes, which he stole there, he sold at *Faversham*. Warrants are issued out for the apprehending of him; but when our last Intelligence came from thence, he was not taken; yet we hope he soon will, and be brought to condign Punishment, that the World may be rid of such a vile Mischief as he appears to have been through all Collington's wicked Schemes.

F I N I S.

This Day is Published,

(Price Three-Pence.)

The THIRD EDITION, Corrected.

THE TRIALS of the Prisoners who were Try'd at the Assizes held at *Maidstone*, for the County of *Kent*, on the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, and 23d of March 1750, before the Hon. Sir THOMAS DENISON, Knt. one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench. In which are the Remarkable Trials at large, of *John Stone*, late of *Chalch Lees*, for maliciously and wickedly setting Fire to the Barn, Corn, and Hay-Ricks of Mr. John Clarke of *Throwleigh*; *John Collington*, for counseling, abetting, aiding and hiring the said *John Stone* to commit the said wicked Act; also of *Benjamin Baker* and *Francis Foster*, for robbing on the Highway; *Wil-*

liam Randal, for stealing a Mare; *Henry Farleys*, for robbing his Master, the late Mr. Clarke of *Denton*, of 14l. 18s. *John Williams*, for breaking open the House of Richard May, and stealing a Watch. Likewise of *William Barlow*, for a Rape on Mary Ray, the Wife of William Ray of *Cliffe*; and *Christopher Barrett* and *Joseph Gregory*, for going in Disguise to the Barn of the abovementioned John Clarke of *Throwleigh*, and forcibly taking him from thence, beating him, and firing a Carbine and Pistol at him, for which Purpose they were hired by the abovesaid *John Collington*: Together with the Trials of the rest of the Prisoners.

To be had of G. GRIFFITH, the Corner of *Elliot's* Court, in the *Little Old Bailey*, and the Venders of News Papers.



